PRESERVING THE FRENCH QUARTER
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CHILI SPICED NUTS A PERFECT SNACK {page 12}

FILL A HAMPER WITH CHRISTMAS CHEER {page 3}

WINNIPEG metro®
Wednesday, November 30, 2011
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Death of CWB will gut heart of city: MP

'Peggers too apathetic to Bill C-18: CWB

Monday's passing of Bill C-18, to end the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly, will "hollow out" Winnipeg's downtown, said Winnipeg Centre MP Pat Martin.

"Not only will there be an impact in the rural prairies, but there will be a huge impact in the heart of corporate Winnipeg."

Martin said he forsees at least 500 people losing their jobs in Winnipeg and thousands more in both the rural and urban centres of Manitoba. He also estimates $95 million a year in economic benefits will be lost.

CWB director John Sandborn said while employees at the CWB are all professional, they're disappointed. "They're dedicated and they've done an excellent job for farmers."

Both Martin and Sandborn noted with the control of the CWB gone, big corporations will gain control of prime Canadian grain — from the seed in the ground, to what ends up on our tables, and potentially degrading its value in the world market.

"It's a kick in the teeth to the economy of Winnipeg ... It's cut a swath in our city."
WINNIPEG CENTRE MP PAT MARTIN

"People don't realize how profound it is and now we have to put a strategy in place to diversify (Winnipeg's) economy," said Martin.

Martin added with the loss of the single-desk system, large international corporations, such as Denver-based Cargill, are more likely to leave Winnipeg. "They don't need to be here anymore … Now they can run their operations through their head offices," he said.

However, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said it's time for the CWB to compete.

"It's time for the wheat board to go out in a dual marketing environment, to cultivate its customers and provide a competitive service because those customers are going to have choice in the future," he said last month.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

Will's. Power

▶ Actor and comedian Will Arnett attends a press conference at the United Way headquarters yesterday, where he announced he has donated his Winnipeg Jets season tickets to the charity. Skyler Pearson, 12, from Baldur, Man. was the first to receive tickets. ¶

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

Nothing arrested about this development

Will Arnett's donation of his Winnipeg Jets' season tickets inspired the launch of Dream Seats, a formalized ticket donation program led by the United Way. Arnett, who has performed on TV shows like Arrested Development and 30 Rock, has ties to the city as both his parents are from Winnipeg and his grandfather was United Way of Winnipeg's first campaign chair.

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Leaders call for inquiry after baby dies

Paul Ross and Erna Hastings were young, new parents but they knew something was wrong with their little Drianna.

The two-month-old girl was having trouble breathing. She cried every time her little body was wracked with coughs.

They took her three times to the nursing station in God's Lake Narrows, a remote First Nation some 500 kilometres north of Winnipeg. They never saw a doctor. On each visit, nurses sent them home with Tylenol and reassurances that their daughter was fine.

Drianna was eventually airlifted to Thompson, Man., where she died Saturday in her father's arms of pneumonia.

Manitoba's top native leaders are calling on Ottawa to hold a public inquiry into health care in northern aboriginal communities following Drianna's death.

They say it's just the latest tragedy caused by inadequate health care provided to remote First Nations communities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Drianna Ross died Saturday after visiting a nursing station three times.

Cheer Board's food drive grows

Donations can be made at Safety, Staples, Winners, Shell locations

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

The Christmas Cheer Board has launched and the need is greater than ever.

"We did 19,502 hampers last year," said executive director Kai Madsen. "We had about a 400 (hamper) increase last year, so I'm hoping it won't be much more."

While groups like Winnipeg Harvest also help out families at Christmas time, Madsen said some are a little less shy about approaching the Cheer Board for help during the holidays rather than the province's largest food bank.

"We're already hitting a higher number than Harvest ... because there's a group of people that don't generally go to Harvest or a food bank — immigrants, the elderly, for example," said Madsen.

The Christmas Cheer Board also has a new location this year — although it's in the same building. The entrance is now located at 550 Milt Stegall Dr. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Helping hand

Need a hamper? Or want to volunteer?

- People on social assistance who would like a hamper are asked to call 948-2022.
- People not on social assistance who would like a hamper are asked to call 989-5683.
- About 20,000 hampers are expected to be put together, with about 15,000 of them being delivered, all by volunteers.
- About 5,000 volunteers are needed.
- Visit www.christmascheerboard.ca for more information.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

▶ Christmas Cheer Board director Kai Madsen said it takes 5,000 volunteers to co-ordinate and deliver hampers throughout the city.

1 news

Police say a woman who died from a gunshot wound in Toronto was from Winnipeg. Scan the code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web

November is traditionally a strong month on the markets, says Allan Small, but this year a large sell-off has wiped out all the gains made in October. More at metronews.ca/investing

Emails contradict PM's spokesman

Documents indicate enforcement of change from 'Government of Canada' to 'Harper Government'

Federal public servants were trying to understand the wholesale "Harperization" of Government of Canada communications six months before a spokesman for the prime minister emphatically denied any change in policy or practice.

New documents obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act directly contradict published claims by Stephen Harper's chief spokesman that bureaucrats have not been directed to replace the words Government of Canada with "Harper Government" in departmental news releases and backgrounders.

Top former civil servants say the wording change marks a disturbing new trend in the politicization of the bureaucracy — and breaches both communications policy and the civil service ethics policy.

Insiders say ongoing editing skirmishes continue between some government departments with strong leadership and the Privy Council Office, the bureaucracy known as PCO that serves the prime minister.

"The directive we have from the (director general's office) is that if PCO adds the Harper Government reference, then we leave it in," says an email to communications officials at Industry, dated Oct. 5, 2010. "Please proceed with this approach. Sorry — it is what PCO has instructed."

An editor responded: "Given this directive, and with mild distress, I have reinstalled the phrasing."

When the change in nomenclature was revealed last March, Harper's chief spokesman at the time, Dimitri Soudas, wrote to Canadian newspapers asserting "no directive" went out to civil servants. "Nothing could be further from the truth," Harper's spokesman declared. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Occupy. Squat

▶ In this photo taken Nov. 22, an Occupy Seattle protester, who declined to be identified, enters a formerly boarded-up duplex that protesters have taken over in Seattle's Central District.

ELAINE THOMPSON/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Occupiers turn into squatters

To protest foreclosures in the nation's housing market, Occupy Wall Street demonstrators in Seattle, Portland and Oakland have taken up a new tactic: squatting in vacant properties.

Record year for 'bully breed' dogs: Society

Calgary Humane Society officials fear dogs are being bred for criminal purposes in record numbers this year.

Executive director Patricia Cameron said while final numbers are still being tabulated, the society is seeing a greater number of violent and super-sized canines taken in at their shelter.

"They're what we call bully breeds," she said. "We believe there is no bad breed of animal; however, we believe an ultra-large dog — because of their strength and athleticism — require a certain kind of owner and home," Cameron said.

Evidence in the past has indicated these types of dogs may be used in rural Alberta fighting rings and to guard criminal endeavours, namely marijuana grow operations, Cameron said.

Calgary bylaw boss Bill Bruce said his staff is seeing more cross-breeding being conducted between large species to create super-sized dogs, some as heavy as 150 pounds.

"People often don't realize they have got more dog than they can handle," Bruce said. "It's would be like if you just got your learner's permit and you were handed the keys to a turbo (Porsche) Carrera."

Cameron said the society has worked with online sites to prevent the sale of large-breed dogs, but more effort is needed. METRO

METRO FILE

▶ Pit bulls and mastiffs are turning up more frequently at the Calgary Humane Society. Its director says these breeds can be used for criminal purposes.

Neglect's effects

The society has seen nearly 500 pit bulls pass through its shelter in the last five years.

- **Many of the dogs have** not been taught basic manners, making them likely to attack if they feel threatened.
- **In May, 30 dehydrated pit** bull terriers were seized from a Calgary operation.

MARIO ANZUONI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Dr. Conrad Murray closes his eyes after he was sentenced for his involuntary manslaughter conviction in the death of singer Michael Jackson in Superior Court in Los Angeles yesterday.

Jackson's doctor gets four-year jail term

Murray will likely serve less than two years in county jail ▶ Jackson family is pleased with sentence

A judge's stern voice broke the silence of a Los Angeles courtroom: "Money for madness medicine," he said before sentencing Dr. Conrad Murray to the maximum four years behind bars for Michael Jackson's death.

Judge Michael Pastor denounced Murray as a greedy, remorseless physician whose gross negligence killed the King of Pop. Pastor said Murray sold out his profession for a promised fee of $150,000 a month and accused Murray of committing a "horrific violation of trust" when he agreed to give Jackson a powerful anesthetic every night as an unorthodox cure for insomnia.

Jackson's family said in a statement read in court that they were not seeking revenge but a stiff sentence for Murray that served as a warning to opportunistic doctors.

"We're going to be a family. We're going to move forward," brother Jermaine Jackson said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doctor in debt

- Prosecutors cited Murray's statements to advocate that he receive the maximum term. They also want him to pay restitution to the singer's three children — Prince, Paris and Blanket.
- It's unlikely that Murray can pay any sizable sum, as he was deeply in debt when he agreed to serve as Jackson's personal physician for $150,000 a month, and the singer died before Murray received any payment.

Kidnapper sues his hostages

A man who held a Kansas couple hostage in their home while fleeing from authorities is suing them, claiming that they broke an oral contract made when he promised them money in exchange for hiding him from police. The couple has asked a judge to dismiss the suit.

Jesse Dimmick, of suburban Denver, is serving an 11-year sentence after bursting into Jared and Lindsay Rowley's Topeka-area home in September 2009.

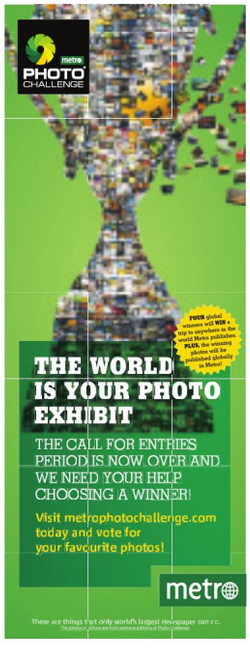
He was wanted for questioning in the beating death of a Colorado man and a chase had begun.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported that Dimmick filed a breach of contract suit in Shawnee County District Court, in response to a suit the Rowleys filed in September seeking $75,000 from him for intruding in their home and causing emotional stress.

Dimmick contends that he told the couple he was being chased by someone, most likely the police, who wanted to kill him.

Neighbours have said that the couple fed Dimmick snacks and watched movies with him until he fell asleep and they were able to escape.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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WINNIPEG - MANITOBA
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The management and finance staff of Credit Amnesty 2011 were flown to Toronto and trained to be lending representatives for a national leader who has been lending to credit challenged consumers in an effort to give consumers the opportunity to re-establish their credit one payment at a time. Credit Amnesty 2011 will now deliver credit approvals to every consumer they enter into the patented Credit Approval Processing System within 60 seconds. Doug MacIver, General Manager at Credit Amnesty 2011 proudly says, "we provide opportunity where others can't."

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From what we were told in Toronto, business starts coming in from referrals, from our own customers who find out this program is for real. They usually tell all their family and friends about it. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for someone to come in to us and drive home a nice car and rebuild their credit," adds Doug. Our staff has even told their families and friends to come down and we've notified some local companies and their employees to come down as well to take advantage of these great opportunities to rebuild your credit.
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Countries at odds over green fund at UN climate talks

Global-warming report provides bleak backdrop to Durban conference

International climate negotiators were at odds yesterday on how to raise billions of dollars to help poor countries cope with global warming. A major shipping group is willing to help, endorsing a proposal for a carbon tax on vessels carrying the world's trade.

Details of the tussle over the funding emerged as the UN's weather agency reported that 2011 was tied as the 10th-hottest year since records began in 1850. Arctic sea ice, a barometer for the entire planet, had shrunk to a record low volume, said the World Meteorological Organization.

Putting the final touches on what's known as the Green Climate Fund is a top issue at the 192-party UN climate conference that was in its second day Tuesday in the South African coastal city of Durban, and one of the keys of a strategy to contain greenhouse gas emissions and keep global warming within manageable limits.

The two-week conference is to finalize a plan on managing climate finances, due to scale up to $100 billion annually by 2020.

The International Chamber of Shipping, representing about 80 per cent of the world's merchant marine, joined forces with aid groups Oxfam and WWF International to urge the conference to adopt guidelines for a levy on carbon emissions by ships.

Details of any levy would be worked out by the International Maritime Organization, the UN agency regulating international shipping, the aid groups and the chamber said in a joint statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$100B

The two-week conference is to finalize a plan on managing climate finances, due to scale up to $100 billion annually by 2020.

More heat than we can handle?

The world temperatures report released yesterday provided a bleak backdrop to negotiators seeking ways to limit pollution blamed for global warming.

2011 has been a year of extreme weather right across the globe, the World Meteorological Organization reported.

"Climate change is real, and we are already observing its manifestations in weather and climate patterns around the world," said R.D.J. Lengoasa, the WMO's deputy director, noting human activity is a significant contributor.

SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A tree is lit up by cyclists generating electricity as part of an exhibit at the climate change conference in Durban, South Africa, yesterday.

Mobs storm British embassy in Tehran

VAHID SALEMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Iranian police officers prevent protesters from entering the British embassy as others stand on the gates, holding a satirized British flag in Tehran yesterday.

Hardline Iranian protesters stormed British diplomatic compounds yesterday, hauling down the Union Jack, torching an embassy vehicle and pelting buildings with petrol bombs in what began as an apparent state-approved show of anger over the latest Western sanctions to punish Tehran for defiance over its nuclear program.

The hours-long assault on the British embassy and a residential complex for staff — in chaotic scenes reminiscent of the seizing of the U.S. embassy in 1979 — could push already frayed diplomatic ties toward the breaking point.

Iran's parliament approved a bill Sunday to downgrade relations with Britain, one of America's closest allies with diplomatic envoys in the Islamic Republic.

Calling yesterday's attack "outrageous and indefensible," British Prime Minister David Cameron said that Iran's failure to defend the embassy and its staff was a disgrace and would have "serious consequences."

He said all embassy staff had been accounted for and praised Britain's ambassador to Iran for handling a "dangerous situation with calm and professionalism."

Sorting out who to blame may be difficult.

The late-afternoon demonstration outside the British Embassy was organized by pro-government groups at universities and Islamic seminaries, and could not have taken place without official sanction.

However, such anti-Western rallies often draw ultraconservative factions such as the basiji, a paramilitary group run by the powerful Revolutionary Guard that is directly controlled by Iran's ruling theocracy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 92.29 (11,732.5)	+ 0.48¢ (97.06¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ 1.58¢ US ($99.79 US)	$3.62 US (+ 9.6¢)
	Gold
	$1,718.90 US (+ $4.40 US)

American Airlines in trouble

Bankruptcy means flights may be cut, job losses on the horizon ▶ AMR stockholders will be wiped out

The parent company of American Airlines filed for bankruptcy protection yesterday, seeking relief from crushing debt caused by high fuel prices and expensive labour contracts that its competitors shed years ago.

The company also replaced its CEO. American said its frequent-flier program would be unaffected.

AMR Corp., which owns American, was the only major U.S. airline company that did not file for bankruptcy protection after the Sept. 11 attacks, which caused a deep slump in the industry.

In announcing the bankruptcy filing, AMR said CEO Gerard Arpey, a veteran of the company for almost three decades, had stepped down and was replaced by Thomas W. Horton, the company president.

In a filing with federal bankruptcy court in New York, AMR said it had $29.6 billion in debt and $24.7 billion in assets.

The company will delay the spinoff of its regional airline, American Eagle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An employee works at an American Airlines counter at LaGuardia Airport in New York yesterday.

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LOW CONSUMER CONFIDENCE EASY TO SWALLOW WITH BACON JAM

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

Think you're hip to the hottest consumer trends?

Well, unless you're all over spreadable bacon, My Little Pony, Honey Badger and Pickle Juice, you are nowhere, my friend.

Time to go to school, fool.

Ad Age, the bible of Madison Avenue, released its annual list of 25 hottest brands Monday, and along with obvious choices such as the Chevy Cruze and the HTC smartphone, apparently America can't get enough of Street Skillet Bacon Spread and My Little Pony.

Seattle's Street Skillet's revenue is $3 million so far this year, mainly on the strength of the sale of bacon jam. It's one of Rachel Ray's fall favourite foods.

> **"Admit it: never in a million years would you consider bacon jam a million-dollar idea. That's why John Henderson is a successful entrepreneur and you aren't. No jam."**

Admit it: never in a million years would you consider bacon jam a million-dollar idea. That's why John Henderson is a successful entrepreneur and you aren't. No jam.

I bet you also let Pickle Juice slip through your fingers, too. Not so for Brandon Brooks, who had the vision and foresight to believe that people will buy anything as long as it's sold as an electrolyte replacement. Brooks is planning to blend Pickle Juice with pomegranate to make it taste better, which only goes to prove that a spoonful of sugar helps the Pickle Juice go down.

The list includes a bunch of nostalgia items, like Goldfish, those tasteless little crackers that are hot again, even though they're still tasteless. But after bacon jam and Pickle Juice, that's probably a good thing.

Then there's the inexplicable rebirth of My Little Pony, the foremost mania of my daughter when she was a little girl, some 25 years ago. I could never figure out why she would brush Her Little Pony for hours, yet I could never get her to brush the dog. I assume My Little Pony smelled better.

What's really weird is that the latest craze is being driven by an audience of adolescent and adult males called "bronies." They have their own podcast called Bronyville and their own New York convention called BroNYCon. The My Little Pony website has 71 million hits.

As weird as all of the above are, topping the list is the Honey Badger, which started as a bit player in a National Geographic special and has morphed into the Tasmanian Devil of the 21st century. He's so bad, he eats venom-spitting cobras alive and braves thousands of bee stings to eat their larvae. He's now the spokesvermin for Wonderful Pistachios, which he cracks by whacking them with a snake.

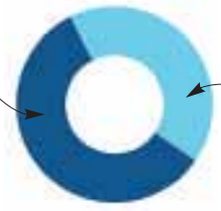
Don't believe me. Check him out on YouTube, where he has 23 million hits, but he don't care.

He's just bad.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should schools become Wi-Fi hotspots?



Local tweets

- **@arnettwill:** Anyone got an extra Salisbury House chocolate donut?
- **@Stripe2Stargirl:** What is a Salisbury House & are their chocolate doughnuts any good? @arnettwill those of us in the sticks would like to know!
- **@SolRaberGood:** @arnettwill I'd say OCCUPY SALISBURY HOUSE, but i think the crazy bum reading the newspaper in the corner already has.
- **@Pbryan74:** @arnettwill I have a Salisbury steak. Does that count?
- **@dani_forest:** Does a friendly Manitoban have your account hostage?!
- **@VixOrien:** @arnettwill Yeah, like the guy with the extra Salisbury House chocolate donut is going to give it to the guy without one. COME ON!
- **@somuchtosayx:** "@arnettwill: Anyone got an extra Salisbury House chocolate donut?" I could go for a Salisbury steak with mash for lunch! #impossibleinNYC
- **@JaxonHaldane:** @arnettwill: ask @burtoncummings or Curton Bummings as he is known in the 'Peg

DYRK DANIELS/SOLENT NEWS/REX FEATURES

Daily Zoom

They call it 'Kitten Love'

Sharing a tender tiger moment

USA. "The little girl was so excited that she started clapping," says photographer Dyrk Daniels, who captured this moment at the Cougar Mountain Zoo in Issaquah, Wash. Golden Bengal tiger Taj walked to the glass, put his right paw up against it where the girl's hand was and bowed his head. MWN

"During my 27 years of working with tigers, I have never seen anything like it before."

RON TILSON, INTERNATIONAL TIGER EXPERT, MINNESOTA ZOO

Instead of 'Ahh!' it was 'Aww!'

RECOLLECTION. Daniels, 47, describes this chance occurrence at the zoo, saying he didn't expect such tenderness from the predatory kitty. "I noticed that Taj had taken an interest in the girl and was heading towards her. I thought for certain that the little girl would need therapy after the encounter." MWN

In the cat's eyes, child is a 'snack'

INSTINCT. This meeting between baby and 168 kg cat may seem cute, but typical human-tiger get-togethers are no fun, specialist Ron Tilson says. "Seeing a young child elicits a tiger's predatory instinct. It begins to follow the child closely, hoping to get a 'snack.' When it gets a chance, it will take it!" MWN

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‘They want to see naked bodies’

Helen Mirren got it right when she said ‘flesh sells’ Here’s to the many actors who have gone without a stitch — all in the name of art, of course

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

A website called Mr. Skin notes that Helen Mirren is the only celebrity to appear nude on screen in five different decades.

The Oscar winner became the first British actress to appear in the buff in a mainstream film in 1969, when she was just 24 years old.

On her revealing scene in Age of Consent she said, “Flesh sells. People don’t want to see pictures of churches. They want to see naked bodies.”

Since then Mirren has doffed her clothes several more times, and become one of the most acclaimed actresses of her age.

Appearing nude doesn’t appear to have hurt her career with the public or the Academy, which is probably makes Michael Fassbender, the very naked star of this weekend’s Oscar contender Shame, very happy.

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Michael Fassbender plays a sex addict in Shame. And yes, we get to see his very naked body.

In a performance that bares not only his body but his soul as well, Fassbender might become the most unclothed star to ever be nominated for Best Actor.

But he wouldn’t be the first star to go naked as a jaybird for their craft and take home Oscar gold.

Kate Winslet says there was so much nudity in The Reader, which earned her an Oscar, because the story required it. But, she added in the same interview, she thinks people might be tired of looking at her body.

The first nude film scenes happened almost 100 years before Fassbender drop trou.

In 1915’s Inspiration an actress named Audrey Munson undressed and for the next 20 years stars regularly exposed their hidden talents.

Then came the Hays Code, which banned nudity from the major studios well into the 1960s.

One of the first big stars to break the code was Jayne Mansfield, whose topless role in Promises! Promises! landed her on the Top 10 list of Box Office Attractions for 1963.

Since then many A-listers have taken it off for their art.

Recently both Amanda Seyfried and Julianne Moore stripped in Chloe. Anne Hathaway and Michelle Williams wore their birthday suits in Love and Other Drugs and Blue Valentine respectively.

But it’s not just women exposing themselves.

Gerard Butler let it all hang out in Mrs. Brown and Gamer and Daniel Craig is buck naked in Love is the Devil.

Producer Judd Apatow promises more male nudity in his films.

“It really makes me laugh in this day and age that anyone is troubled by seeing any part of the human body.”

2 scene

Scene in brief

A lawsuit filed by owners of a minor league baseball team claims an Illinois city violated its contract and misled the team about the prospect of building a ballpark. Actor Kevin Costner of Field of Dreams is among the owners of the Lake County Fielders. They’ve been battling the city of Zion in northeastern Illinois for months over the team’s collapse this year.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Big Bang Theory star Jim Parsons aims for a Broadway return in Harvey

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More baby mama drama for Biebs

- Man steps forward claiming to be the father of Mariah Yeater's child
- Robbie Powell was recently charged with drug possession, burglary

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Before the illustrious Mariah Yeater (that's her booking photo, there) accused Justin Bieber of fathering her child, the last time I wrote about a situation so low-rent was during the Levi Johnston baby daddy drama with the Palins.

The latest on the possible Biebs baby?

While the 17-year-old pop star maintains he isn't the father of Yeater's infant son, the man who does claim to be, Robbie Powell, was arrested over the weekend in San Diego, according to Hollyscoop.

The 23-year-old was charged with possession of methamphetamines and drug paraphernalia, as well as three charges of commercial burglary.

He's currently being held on $7,000 bail.

Sources say Powell is looking to go public with his claims that Yeater made up the story about Bieber fathering her child, but he hasn't settled on a media outlet yet.

After all of this, I hope that Bieber is the father just so that poor baby might have a chance at life.

▶ Mariah Yeater

▶ Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard.

Maggie Gyllenhaal expecting again

Maggie Gyllenhaal and husband Peter Sarsgaard are gearing up to welcome another member to their family, as Gyllenhaal is pregnant with their second child, according to Life & Style.

"Over Thanksgiving weekend, Maggie was telling friends that she's six months pregnant. Her bump is so big," a source says.

"She's thrilled to be pregnant. She and Peter have wanted another child for a while. They're very happy that they'll have another baby in the house soon."

The couple, who married in 2009, have a 5-year-old daughter, Ramona.

METRO

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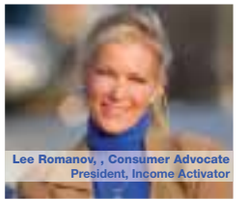


Lee Romanov, , Consumer Advocate
President, Income Activator

If your online business has not reached its' full potential and you've been struggling to take it to the next level, almost feeling paralyzed at times, then I'm about to tell you what you can do about it.

As an entrepreneur you're probably very creative and driven to make a lot of money, but if you don't have the flexibility of being both proactive and reactive with your website, then you and your online business are restricted.

Why... because you can't do a thing without your webmaster, while being held hostage by their costs.

Here's one example of a lost opportunity; a big story breaks on the 6 pm news that directly applies to your online business. You should be:

1. Proactive and immediately create new keyword targeted pages focused on online searches driving traffic to your website.

2. Reactive and change your home page content to reflect this breaking news and put up an opt-in form capturing the names and email addresses of visitors wanting to learn more about this topic.

If you can't make those kind of changes to your website yourself, you'll never be able to compete in today's rapidly changing marketplace.

I'm Lee Romanov, and I built a huge Internet business by applying simple techniques such as this and created a database of over 100,000 people that funnelled into my revenue model. I then sold the website to Torstar; owner of the Toronto Star for millions of dollars.

I went on to create a website program for my own use, Income Activator, and I incorporated my marketing techniques of capturing traffic and converting it into revenue, without the need of a programmer or webmaster. I am now making it available to you so you can turn your website into a marketing force. I also built in multiple revenue streams you can activate immediately. It is shockingly easy to do.

I know what I'm talking about and my reputation as a consumer advocate, through my columns in the Globe and Mail should assure you that I deliver what I promise. If you have a website you can attach this program to it or copy your content over to it.

The program is called **IncomeActivator.com**, which anyone can use to build and manage their online business, regardless of their comfort level with computers. If you can type, you can create website pages, opt-in forms, add pictures, videos, affiliate links and activate several proven revenue streams instantly. I also share the marketing strategies I used to build my online businesses along with valuable advice.

I encourage you to go to **IncomeActivator.com** and hear more of what I'm offering. You will need to be proactive with this as I am only making available 2, 100 Income Activator website programs at an introductory price. You will then become part of a unique group of people sharing their knowledge while growing their online business.

I will be making myself available from today until December 12th to answer any questions related to online marketing or Income Activator specifically. I invite you to visit **IncomeActivator.com** now. I'm also giving away one Income Activator website for Free... all you need to do is tell me your best online marketing story.

Gosselin shoots down plastic surgery rumours

Kate Gosselin (new occupation: blogger at CouponCabin.com, continuing her fame-seeker tendencies) is shooting down Internet rumours that she got a facelift.

"With all of the buzz about me having had a facelift, I will confirm that I have not had one (I am only 36!!!). But, I will take all of the talk about how rested and young I look as a compliment! So thanks!" she wrote. I love Gosselin's "I'm only 36!" excuse for not having plastic surgery, as that didn't stop her from getting a tummy tuck in 2007 and breast implants in 2009.

But, to be fair, she is 36 and is a single mom to eight kids. Girlfriend probably needs all the plastic surgery she can get, under 40 or no.

▶ Kate Gosselin

DOROTHY ROBINSON

Prince Harry peaces out

Prince Harry's adventure in America is over.

"Captain Wales has completed his training in the United States and has returned to the U.K.," says a spokesman from the Naval Air Facility El Centro in El Centro, Calif., according to Us Weekly.

Harry had been training there for the past two months while also enjoying some downtime in Las Vegas, San Diego and Los Angeles.

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@NathanFillion

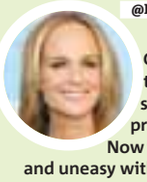
New Yorkers, I love how stylish and beautiful you all are. Have lunch with me?

@kerrywashington

I'm completely in love... Ive never felt this way before. Ribbon & Cimarron have stolen my heart... They're horses. :)

@AlecBaldwin

I'm going to change my profile to "Conservative, Christian, gun owner, mom."



@HelenHunt

Got on twitter to shamelessly promote. Now working and uneasy with shameless promotion. Damn.

A commission has been working since the 1930s to preserve New Orleans' French Quarter

On a muggy autumn New Orleans morning in the French Quarter, away from bawdy Bourbon Street, Natchez residents sat on their stoops drinking rich cafe au lait, reading the newspaper, or watching the passing traffic.

Replace the cars with horses and carriages and the scene could well be from a couple of hundred years ago.

The old city remains vital with a steady mix of residents and small businesses mostly thanks to the Vieux Carre Commission, which regulates changes to the buildings in the small section of New Orleans near the Mississippi River. The commission has control over every part of a building's exterior.

A rotting sill in the back of the house cannot be replaced without permission. A wall can't be painted or a window removed or a roof changed without permission. It's a sore point for some, but the results of such strict control are noticeable.

When the commission was formed during the Great Depression, the 85-square-block Quarter that was laid out by French settlers in 1718 had become a collection of derelict buildings. The idea of preserving an entire area was novel.

"What was considered ahead of time was that up until then American preservation was preservation of individual structures, Mount Vernon for instance," said Walter Gaillas, with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "Back then, nobody thought of it as, 'Gee, maybe there is another way to preserve a whole community.' Now there are hundreds of commissions like that around the country."

ABUNDANTC/FLICKR

▶ The Vieux Carre Commission regulates all changes — big and small — to the exterior of buildings in the French Quarter.

Vieux Carre Commission

▶ Nine volunteer members and a staff of five make up the commission. The volunteers are appointed by the mayor and approved by the city council.

The French Quarter, also known as the Vieux Carre (Old Square) as it was once called, had fallen on hard times by 1936. Once-grand townhouses were tenements, and city officials were seriously considering tearing down the majestic old buildings that frame Jackson Square — Upper Pontalba and the Cabildo — where the Louisiana Purchase was signed in 1803.

Then along came the Vieux Carre Commission, dedicated to preservation while keeping the area a functioning part of the community.

"The commission is not about keeping things looking pretty but addressing what's appropriate to character and quality of all the parts that make up this neighbourhood," said Vieux Carre Commission director Lary Hesdorffer. "We have the benefit of not being frozen in time."

The idea, Hesdorffer said, is not to return the French Quarter — which is a real neighbourhood with people living there and real businesses operating on its streets — to what it was when it was founded, but to keep the historical presence this generation inherited.

"We have many different styles in the French Quarter from different eras," Hesdorffer said. "We're now treasuring buildings that have been renovated along the way."

As an example, Hesdorffer points to the famous "lace" iron work on French Quarter balconies, which came in the 1800s, replacing the original plain ironwork.

"That sort of layering thing is what makes this historic district particularly rich because we represent some things that date to the colonial period," he said. "But not many are in pure form. Over the years, they've been updated, changed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 life

Travel in brief

A pair of wilderness tour operators in Yukon and a geology-themed park in New Brunswick have won 2011 Canadian Tourism Awards. Nahanni River Adventures and Canadian River Expeditions, both based in Whitehorse, won the award for sustainable tourism.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caribbean tourist operators expect more visitors, brace for drop in spending

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Go nuts for the holidays

Chili Spiced Nuts serve number of purposes **Offer them as a snack or give them as gifts**

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

With less than one month until Christmas, the holiday season is in full swing. Each week, we'll provide you with a great make-ahead recipe that you can share as a hostess gift or serve as an entertaining idea for your holiday get-together.

Chili Spiced Nuts

These nuts are perfect to serve up in a little bowl for fingers to dip into while enjoying drinks. You can also pack them up in little gift bags or tins for a gift.

Preparation:

1. In bowl, toss almonds, walnut halves and pistachios with oil, chili powder, cumin, oregano, paprika, salt and pepper until well coated.
2. Spread onto parchment paper lined baking sheet and roast in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 15 minutes. Remove from oven and stir in pepitas. Let cool in baking sheet.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.

Holiday prep

We're here to help
Every Wednesday until Christmas, Metro's Emily Richards will provide you tips to make the holiday whirlwind a bit less stressful. Check out the next edition of Holiday Helper on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) whole unblanched almonds
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) walnut halves
- 1 cup (250 mL) shelled pistachios
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) canola oil
- 2 tsp (10 mL) chili powder
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ground cumin
- 1 tsp (5 mL) dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) smoked sweet paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) black pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) roasted pepitas

EMILY RICHARDS

This recipe makes about 5 cups (1.25 L).

Drink of the week

Almond Apple-tini

- 1 oz (2 tbsp) almond beverage
- 2 oz (1/4 cup) apple juice
- Splash caramel syrup
- Dash fresh lemon juice
- 1 apple slice

In a martini shaker, combine almond beverage, apple juice, caramel syrup and lemon juice. Shake vigorously and serve in a martini glass. Garnish with an apple slice. ALMONDFRESH.COM

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Las Vegas eyes stopover travellers

Never mind "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," Las Vegas's enigmatic tourism slogan. Perhaps the new slogan for America's gambling capital should be "Stop over for a quickie in Sin City."

A quick visit, that is. Las Vegas tourism officials are betting that a new air terminal will lure some travellers to use Las Vegas as a regular stopover en route to Asia or other foreign places.

Some might never leave McCarran International Airport, while others might decide to make casinos happy by hopping in a cab and spending a few hours gambling.

Either way is fine with the airport.

It just needs enough people travelling here to justify a $2.4 billion expansion conceived when Las Vegas was much busier.

The new terminal opens in June.

The city still expects most visitors to vacation for longer periods, but the new pitch marks a big change from past years when Vegas could count on filling planes solely as a destination.

Since the Great Recession crushed tourism, airlines have cancelled Vegas-bound routes and left casinos scrambling for customers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new terminal at the McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, opening in June, needs more traveller traffic to justify its $2.4 billion price tag.

A Winnipeg company is currently looking for an employee with exceptional knowledge of Cantonese and Szechuan style cuisine (including traditional Hong Kong dim sum and Hong Kong style bakery and pastry), is able to and willing to train and to provide recipes and share your skills and knowledge and cooking techniques to the master chefs and sous chefs of the company. You have the following experience: (i) over 5 years experiences of training chefs; (ii) over 5 years experiences of a master chef; and (iii) experiences with opening new restaurants. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. Please send your resume to the following: Eric at: epl663@hotmail.ca

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WORKPLACE LAW

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obtaining her real estate license, Marilyn Patterson found herself in a pickle. Patterson, a customer service supervisor for the Bank of Nova Scotia in Pitt Meadows, B.C., was summoned to a meeting and told that her work as a realtor may conflict with her employment at the bank.

Patterson saw matters differently. She had performed other part-time work outside of the bank and without any objection., and other employees had second or third jobs, which the bank did not oppose.

When it came to her work as a part-time realtor, however, the bank decided to take a stand, arguing that by recommending financial services and products at the bank, Patterson could be in a "potential" conflict with her work in real estate. Patterson was told to abandon her work as a realtor otherwise she would be fired.

But Patterson was defiant, refusing to consider searching for another non-conflict position at the bank and refusing to resign. Therefore, the Bank felt it had cause to terminate her and it did, without any severance. Patterson was not about to go quietly, suing the bank and claiming that its ultimatum was unreasonable.

At a recent hearing, Justice Bryce Dyer agreed with the bank and dismissed Patterson's claim. According to him, Patterson's refusal to abandon her work as a realtor once instructed to do so amounted to disobedience that was serious and not capable of being forgiven. The key to his decision, however, was not that Patterson had performed work as a realtor but that she was told to give it up or lose her job. Since this direction was reasonable, the bank had done nothing wrong.

This case illustrates two of the most prevalent principles in workplace law. First, the judge you happen to draw often makes a difference in the final outcome. Here, Justice Dyer viewed the bank's directive as reasonable but that does not mean that another judge would. Second, Patterson was given a choice to abandon her outside work or keep her job. In my experience, had the bank just terminated her without advancing this option, she would have been cashing settlement cheques by now. **DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP.**

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RED RIVER COLLEGE

4 sports

Sports in brief

Don't expect Maple Leafs forward Phil Kessel to be selected last at this season's NHL all-star game fantasy draft.

Kessel, who leads the league with 16 goals and 31 points this season, has taken the overall lead in fan balloting for the Jan. 29 showcase game at Scotiabank Place in Ottawa.

His total of 258,446 votes moved him past Senators defenceman Erik Karlsson, who leads all blue-liners with 256,839 votes in results released yesterday by the NHL. Ottawa forward Daniel Alfredsson was third overall (233,868) and teammate Jason Spezza was fifth overall (209,455).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ottawa's Milan Michalek scores a first-period goal on Winnipeg's Ondrej Pavelec at the MTS Centre last night.

Jets return home with loss to Senators

Winnipeg can't hold on in third ◐ Open five-game homestand with defeat

Zack Smith scored his second of the game on a power play at 13:45 of the third period last night as the Ottawa Senators defeated the Winnipeg Jets 6-4.

Smith cut in off the boards and wired a shot past Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec to give Ottawa a 5-4 lead.

Nick Foligno added an empty-net goal for the Senators, who improved to 12-10-3. Craig Anderson made 39 saves for the win.

Milan Michalek scored his 13th and 14th goals of the season for Ottawa, while Jason Spezza tied the score 4-4 in the third.

Evander Kane had two goals for the Jets, while Blake Wheeler and Alexander Burmistrov added singles. Pavelec stopped 28 saves as Winnipeg (9-11-4) opened a five-game homestand with a loss. Michalek ripped a shot over Pavelec's glove to give Ottawa a 1-0 in the first.

SENATORS	JETS
6	4

13

The Jets will play 13 of their next 15 games at home in the MTS Centre.

The Jets evened the score at 7:06 of the second period when Wheeler tapped in his second goal of the season. Defenceman Dustin Byfuglien rushed the length of the ice, sent a floater into the slot, and it bounced around to an open Wheeler all alone on the doorstep.

Burmistrov banked a shot off the inside of Anderson's pad to give the Jets a 2-1 lead eight minutes later, but Smith jammed a puck past Pavelec to even the score 2-2 just 45 seconds later.

Michalek then tipped in a point shot from defenceman Chris Phillips with just 43 seconds left in the second to put Ottawa up 3-2 heading to the third.

Kane scored both of his goals early in the third period as the Jets jumped in front 4-3, but Spezza wired a wrist shot past Pavelec for his ninth of the season to make it 4-4 with just over 10 minutes left.

Next up for the Jets tomorrow night is a clash with the Phoenix Coyotes, who left Winnipeg for the desert in 1996.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Changes ahead for runner-up Bombers

The general manager of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers thought he might get a little more sleep Monday night than he did Sunday, after his team dropped a 34-23 decision to the B.C. Lions at the Grey Cup in Vancouver.

Joe Mack was wrong. He woke up again at 2 a.m., thinking about what needs to be done to get back to the championship and come home with the cup.

"We were a good team this year, we weren't a great team, and so there's things we have to do I've already thought about," he said. "Hopefully we'll be able to execute that in the off-season but we will never be complacent as long as I am here.

"And we're always going to be on the razor's edge in trying to get better because, if not, you're going backwards."

On paper there are about a dozen Bomber free agents. Defensive lineman Doug Brown will retire and a few will try their luck in the NFL, leaving eight or nine, including QB Buck Pierce.

"I want to be here more than anything," Pierce said as he cleared out his locker. "This place is home to me and I definitely want to get something done."

Overall, 2011 was a pretty good season for the Bombers after a grim 2010. They were dominant in a win over Hamilton in the East final, but at the Grey Cup, their offence largely fizzled. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We want to improve in every facet ... We'll look at improving (our) offensive line, improving every receiver position, every running back position, we'll look into all those."

WINNIPEG COACH PAUL LAPOLICE

Motor

The electrical portion of the powertrain consists of the usual 60-kilowatt (80-horsepower) motor that's energized by a lithium-ion battery pack located beneath the cargo floor. That's the same spot as the standard Prius's nickel-metal-hydrid batteries. The advantage of lithium-ion technology is that it's lighter, more energy efficient and holds a charge for longer periods.

As with all Prius models, power is directed to the front wheels via a continuously variable transmission.

Charging

Beyond operating for a modest distance on electric power, the PHV can be replenished in a relatively quick 2.5-to-three hours using 120-volt household current. Toyota provides a 4.5-metre-long cable that plugs into a connection hidden behind a spring-loaded door on the passenger-side rear quarter panel. Buyers have the option of a 240-volt outlet that cuts charging time to 1.5 hours, however they will have to opt for the "Level 2" home charging station available through Toyota dealers.

Fuel efficiency

As for the all-important question of fuel consumption, Toyota claims the PHV earns the equivalent of 1.75 l/100 km on electric power alone (presumably based on typical power costs) and about 3.7 l/100 km when functioning in hybrid mode, compared with 3.7 city and 4.0 highway for a standard Prius.

▶ It looks like any other Prius because it is like any other Prius, just with more battery power for extended electric-only use.

This Prius has a bit more spark

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

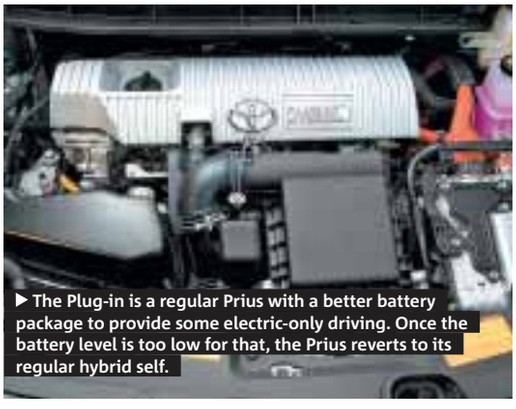
The Prius is the world's most successful gasoline-electric hybrid brand with more than two million copies sold since its 1997 launch. The fuel-frugal Toyota celebrates its 15th anniversary by adding a wagon to the lineup as well as the Plug-in Hybrid, or PHV, which arrives in early 2012.

Although similar to a regular Prius, the PHV has been engineered to offer some advantages of a pure electric vehicle as well as the convenience of a typical hybrid. The result should be significantly improved city fuel economy. For short hops, or gridlocked commuter traffic, the PHV can be driven for up to about 25 kilometres at speeds up to 100 km/h in driver-selectable electric mode.

But when a heavier foot on the accelerator is called for and/or the batteries wear down, the 98-horsepower 1.8-litre gas engine instantly kicks in and both power systems provide the necessary thrust, the same as a regular Prius model. The batteries can also be partially replenished from energy captured through braking.

Determining if the PHV is worth the extra cost will ultimately depend on your particular driving habits, such as distance travelled and your ability to baby the throttle around town. For most people, the popular standard Prius will do just fine, while the PHV takes conserving gas and preserving the environment to a whole new level.

▶ The electric motor has enough power for light acceleration, but when you need max thrust, the gas engine cuts in. The remaining electric range is posted in a display at the top of the centre stack.



▶ The Plug-in is a regular Prius with a better battery package to provide some electric-only driving. Once the battery level is too low for that, the Prius reverts to its regular hybrid self.

Prius Plug-in

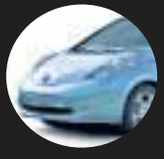
What you should know about the 2012 Toyota Prius Plug-in Hybrid:

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive mid-size sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 1.8-litre DOHC I4 (98) combined with 80-horsepower electric motor.
- **Transmission:** Continuously variable.
- **Market position:** Plug-in Hybrids appear more advanced than current versions and promise significantly better fuel economy. They also won't create the sort of range anxiety that exists with electric-only models.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 2.0/3.7 (est).

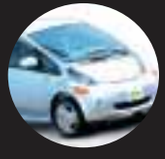
5 drive

By comparison

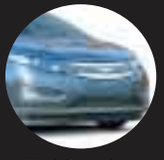
Nissan Leaf
Base price: $40,000
If you want electric, then just go for it. Downside is long charge time.



Mitsubishi i
Base price: $34,500
Short hops only; Prius is more car that does more and costs more, too.



Chevrolet Volt
Base price: $43,000
Gas generator maintains electric motor's function when batteries run low.



WHEELBASE MEDIA

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Carmakers' concern is sustainability

Recycling process gaining attention from automakers

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
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It's no longer enough for automakers to simply build cars that are stylish or have all the latest options. Sustainability is now a driving force, as auto companies tackle such issues as fuel efficiency, alternative powertrains and how to recycle vehicles and components at the end of their lives.

"It's about providing transportation to future generations without having it negatively impacting the environment," says John Viera, director of sustainability for Ford Motor Company. He adds that it's also about educating consumers on the new choices they face.

"We're talking about different fuels, different batteries, and consumers are overwhelmed by the amount of information they need to know."

Cost is a major issue, whether it's the batteries in electric vehicles or extra engine components on vehicles that burn compressed natural gas. There also needs to be infrastructure to supply these fuels. This was always left to gas companies in the past, which refined the fuel and transported it to the stations; for possibly the first time, automakers are now involved in the process.

"The good news is that everyone has electricity at their house or work, so we've decided to work on how we provide charging equipment that is easily installable at home or at work," Viera says.

"We don't try to set up utility stations like gas companies putting in gas pumps, but we are working directly in getting people involved in home charging. These vehicles are parked there for long periods and that's where our focus has been. We think the majority of charging will happen at home or work, not at a public station."

The batteries themselves present issues. Those that use lithium-ion are now becoming the electric vehicle standard. The easiest lithium to mine is in Bolivia, Chile and China, where it's the equivalent of accessible Saudi Arabian oil; deposits in North America are more like the tar sands, harder and costlier to extract. Recycling batteries for their lithium isn't cost-effective yet, and Viera says that automakers will have to work on this.

"We're not there yet, but we need to get together as an industry to address that issue," he says.

"We have to work together. The vehicle drives for 15 years, but if it gets in a crash now, what's the protocol for removing the batteries, where are they transported, where do they go? This is not a competitive advantage; this is something we're all going to need.

"We're working with other automakers on the whole recycling process for this."

Batteries

- Making better electric cars is not really an issue; they've been around since the late 1800s. It's the battery technology that hasn't kept up. Batteries with long range are still very heavy and expensive.
- Like other automakers, Ford is partnering with universities and other companies to advance the technology for battery-electric vehicles.

FORD MOTOR COMPANY

▶ The Ford Transit Connect Electric is a good example of a sustainable vehicle.

This used Audi is fit for the race track

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The 2007 to 2008 Audi RS4 might have been one of the world's foremost sleeper sedans.

Subtle and discreet styling upgrades concealed a track-tuned chassis, high-performance version of the brand's Quattro AWD system and a race-ready engine.

The RS4 Sedan was available on our shores as a 2007 or 2008 model that came with upgraded aerodynamics, brakes and suspension components.

2007 to 2008 Audi RS4

Engine

All RS4 models came just one way: with a 4.2-litre V-8 cranking out 420 horsepower en route to an 8,000 RPM redline, teamed up with AWD and a six-speed manual transmission.

What owners like

RS4's discreet, ultra-performance execution was its major draw. Performance, relative comfort handling, all-season capabilities and a semi-practical four-door body rounded out the owner-stated praise points for the RS4.

What owners dislike

Gripes commonly included limited rear-seat space, a rough ride on some surfaces and, of course, excessive fuel consumption.

Common issues

Be sure the engine on the model you're considering is cold when you first start it up, then check for blue smoke from the tailpipes. Some oil consumption with this engine is considered normal, and may be caused by an easy-to-fix crankcase ventilation system valve.

Poor performance or an inconsistent, "sputtering" feel to the power delivery could indicate a bad ignition coil pack.

Have a mechanic check for fluid leaks and ensure the shock absorbers aren't worn out or "blown".

Verdict

All in all, a well-maintained RS4 should provide an extremely rewarding and relatively worry-free year-round motoring experience for years to come. Just budget for a radar-detector, too.

DON'T LET ADMINISTRATION FEES SURPRISE YOU

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
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ISTOCK

▶ As soon as you step foot on a new or used car lot, ask about any fees that will be tacked on to the vehicle's price.

The thing I most like about getting a bill from a utility company is discovering what new and exciting charges they've managed to come up with since my last bill.

I particularly enjoyed first seeing the one called "customer charge" — so ambiguous, so all encompassing, so delightful.

Some retailers in the car industry are equally creative.

Both new and used car dealerships sometimes tack on an Administration Fee or a Documentation Fee. Either way, this is a charge initiated by each specific dealership (new or used) and can run anywhere from $295 to $595 — and beyond.

Most used car dealerships will charge this fee, but not all new-car dealerships. In fact, most automakers try to police this — with mixed results. This creates the situation where dealerships in the same city, selling the same brands, might have different "admin" fee policies.

One sure thing about admin fees — buyers hate them.

Extra fees are one thing, but what infuriates customers even more are when these fees are only brought up during the paperwork stage.

"When you sit down and see that it has been added to your last negotiated price, you can always step back from the table," says Carl Compton, executive director and registrar of OMVIC.

"If you feel it's not worth it, or not comfortable with it, restart the negotiations."

The Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC) is the entity that enforces Ontario's Motor Vehicle Dealers Act. Each province has its own council and respective "dealers act."

Compton notes that the council is often asked to weigh in on the legitimacy of these admin or documentation fees.

"The only thing we've been able to say is that they are almost a tradition in the industry, for dealers to charge customers for some of the overhead fees they have to deal with. You, as a consumer, should expect that it would probably be tacked on. There is nothing mandatory about it… There is nothing illegal about charging admin fees, but there is nothing from preventing you from negotiating them out as well."

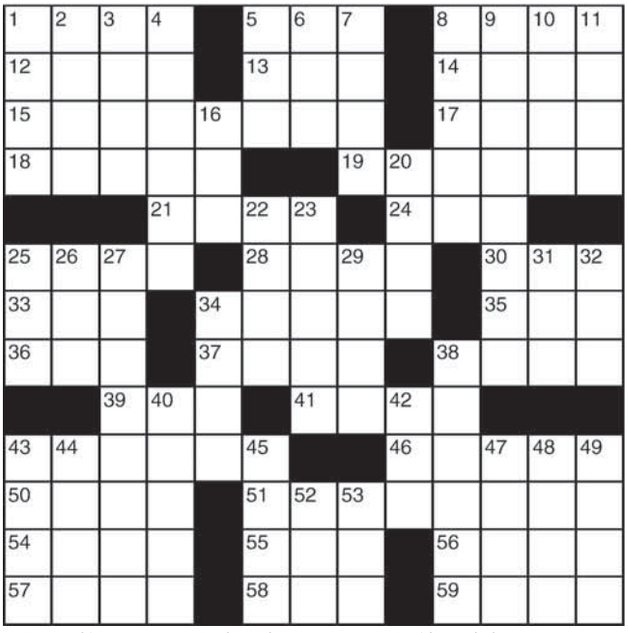
British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec all have legislation that requires dealers and/or dealer groups to disclose any mandatory fees — including admin fees — in their advertised prices.

So the take-away here, is to be aware of them right from the get go.

As soon as you step foot on a new or used car lot, ask about any fees that will be tacked on to the vehicle's price.

Don't find out about them late in the car buying stage, when you're already emotionally attached to the vehicle you want to buy, and/or so emotionally drained by the buying process you'll pay that extra bit, just to make it stop.

Crossword



Across
1 Mosque bigwig
5 Scale member
8 Equipment
12 Hardy cabbage
13 Commotion
14 World's fair
15 Went boom
17 Newspaper page
18 Supermarket section
19 Undergo without yielding
21 Exam format
24 Still, in verse
25 Make tea
28 Took to the skies
30 Festive
33 Actor Harrison
34 Animal stomachs
35 Away from WSW
36 Pump up the volume
37 Base runner's goal
38 Tosses in
39 Historic period
41 Venomous vipers
43 What to call an English nobleman
46 Puppeteer Lewis
50 Norway's capital
51 Atoned for
54 Coaster
55 Central
56 Fashion
57 Danson and Nugent
58 Eggs
59 Heroic verse

Down
1 Furniture store chain
2 Long skirt
3 Swiss peaks
4 Laid-back
5 Despondent
6 Rhyming tribute
7 Source of wealth
8 Crystal-lined rock
9 Obliterated
10 Mimic
11 Took the bus
16 "— the ramparts ..."
20 Information
22 Frizzy coiffure
23 Camel's cousin
25 Bikini half
26 Sleep phenom
27 Kicked out of school
29 Rams fans?
31 Moreover
32 "Certainly"
34 Burn somewhat
38 Fats Domino's "Ain't That —"
40 Crucifixes
42 Omega preceder
43 Lion's share
44 Capri, for one
45 Showroom sample
47 On
48 Start over
49 Mid-month date
52 Louis —
53 BlackBerry, for ex.

Yesterday's answer

E	G	A	D		S	I	C		N	A	P	E
T	O	R	I		N	I	H		E	L	U	L
C	O	C	K	T	A	I	L		P	O	R	K
			D	I	P		O	C	H	E	R	S
T	R	A	I	T		T	R	E	E			
H	A	N	K		T	A	I	L	W	I	N	D
A	N	O		B	R	U	N	T		R	O	E
W	I	N	D	P	I	P	E		N	I	N	E
			R	O	U	E		A	E	S	O	P
E	S	T	E	E	M		O	W	E			
L	I	R	A		P	I	P	E	D	O	W	N
S	L	I	M		H	O	E		L	U	A	U
E	L	M	S		S	U	N		E	R	S	T

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	7		3			5	8	
6				8		1		2
8				7				
	1	3			8		9	
				1				
	8		5			4	1	
				5				4
2		7		3				1
	6	8			9		5	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

1	8	2	5	4	6	3	9	7
6	3	9	8	7	1	5	4	2
4	7	5	2	9	3	1	8	6
9	2	3	1	5	8	7	6	4
5	6	7	3	2	4	8	1	9
8	4	1	9	6	7	2	5	3
3	9	6	7	1	5	4	2	8
7	5	4	6	8	2	9	3	1
2	1	8	4	3	9	6	7	5

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

To BH,
Hi Honey, 24 days and counting before you are here with me. I am so looking forward to seeing you, holding you and kissing you. All I want for Christmas is you.....Love you more xxxxxxx
MPPP

Propellor
We only every see each other briefly, maybe once a week. But your sweet smile sustains me until the next time. I wonder if you're single? I hope so, as I'm determined to get to know the person behind that beautiful face.
GROWLER

Hey Lady
the longest of nights, just thinking of your soft skin, and your fiery red hair.
MISTER

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min -5°	Min -11°	Min -5°
Max -1°	Max -8°	Max -2°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will be focusing on mundane matters such as how to pay the bills and make ends meet today.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Don't let others infect you with their doom and gloom attitude. You know that misery loves company.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 If you don't want to get in the bad books of people you live and work with, don't second guess them.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 If something that usually goes right for you starts going wrong today, it's a sign you need to think again.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 With mind planet Mercury currently moving retrograde, you must make sure you've got your facts straight.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Having second thoughts about something in which you're involved? It would be a mistake to make changes.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 What people say and what they mean will be two very different things today. It pays to be suspicious.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You may be at a loss to explain why certain things are happening, but don't make too big a deal of it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The more someone complains about what you are doing, the more you will do it.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you're the kind of Capricorn who learns from your mistakes, you will learn a lot over the next 24 hours.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You will have a hard time convincing people today. Live and let live.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The more people make an issue of something that doesn't bother you, the more necessary it is to distance yourself. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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PELEE ISLAND WINERY

Wines for the Holidays

Late Harvest Riesling VQA

Slightly sweet and very juicy. Serve with ham, or drink on its own.

750 ml bottle
$14.95

Secco Sparkling Wine VQA

Ring in the New Year with this light and easy Canadian bubbly.

750 ml bottle
$15.95

Lighthouse Riesling VQA

Our classic Riesling, so easy to drink on its own or with light foods. Refreshingly delicious!

750 ml bottle
$13.95

Lighthouse Cab Franc VQA

Plummy & rich, an elbows on the table wine. It's all red meat and pasta.

750 ml bottle
$13.95

Monarch Red VQA

Easy drinking red wine, soft and smooth and no sharp edges.

750 ml Bottle
$10.95

Pelee Island Pinot Noir VQA

Soft with strawberry flavours, this is a natural with Christmas turkey.

750 ml bottle
$11.95

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